

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/823,726 | ARQUIE ET AL. |
| | Examiner X L Bautista | Art Unit 2179 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 6/21/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. The drawings filed on 21 June 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

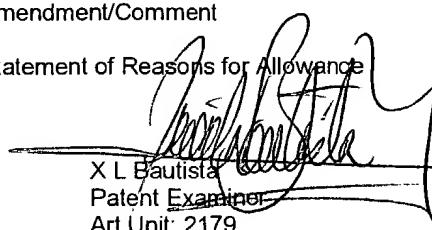
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



X L Bautista
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2179

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-32 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 21, 26, and 31 have been carefully considered. Prior art of record fails to teach the combination of claimed elements including a network topology display having multiple connections between network nodes; the nodes having multiple connections to other nodes; multiple connection paths, each representing one connection with another node; portions of the connection paths overlapping with portions of other connection paths such that only one of the connection paths is visible in the network topology display as recited in claims 1, 21, 26, and 31; a distinguishing segment for indicating connectivity between a displayed node and only one of other two nodes by providing a sense of direction to a first connection path between the displayed node and one of two other nodes as recited in claim 31.

Eick et al (US 6,154,212) discloses an interactive network interface for displaying nodes representing components in a network. Eick teaches first and second connection paths representing connection to other nodes; the connections are represented as lines; the lines may be segments, arcs, or 3D curves. Eick fails to teach or suggest multiple connections overlapping other connections such that

Art Unit: 2179

only one is visible, and a distinguishing segment to indicate connectivity between two nodes and provide a sense of direction to the first connection path.

Bates et al (US 6,072,490) discloses user interface components for permitting user access to data stored in a computer. Bates teaches a user interface for displaying linked records with node elements representing individual records and link elements representing the links connecting the nodes. Bates teaches segments that overlap portions of other connections. Bates fails to teach or suggest that only one of the multiple connections is visible, and a distinguishing segment to indicate connectivity between two nodes and provide a sense of direction to the first connection path.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to X L Bautista whose telephone number is (703) 305-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-18:00), Fridays Off.

Best Available Copy

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



X L Bautista
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlb
2 August 2004

Best Available Copy